Upgradation of runways at international airports

2900. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given approval for setting up of various international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many international airports in the country lack runways of international standards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to upgrade the runways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Depending on several conditions which generally consist of demand and supply side considerations airports are considered by Government for upgradation to international airports, from time to time. Approvals are also granted for setting up Greenfield international airports. Government has given approval for setting up Greenfield International Airports at Shamshabad (Hyderabad) and Devanhalli (Bangalore). 'In principle' approval has also been given to set up in international airport at Mopa (Goa).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proper utilisation of airport infrastructure

2901. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an uneven distribution in the flow of traffic resulting in pressure on infrastructure at certain airports and massive under-utilization of existing infrastructure elsewhere;

(b) whether it is a fact that 530 odd flights land and take off from Delhi airport daily and for 40,000 passengers only 3+2 restrooms are available at Terminal II and Terminal IB, respectively; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for proper utilization of infrastructure particularly when in November-December fog disruptions

may worsen congestion at IGI Airport Delhi and other airports in Northern India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. At Indira Ganghi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, there are 7 double bed rooms and 2 four bed rooms comprising of 22 beds in Terminal-IB and the Dormitory accommodation of 62 beds near car parking area of Terminal-II.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken adequate measures to utilize the infrastructure available inside the terminal building and at the airside during fog conditions at IGI airport. The contingency plan of AAI, inter-alia, includes supply of additional foodstuff, mineral water, tea, coffee and beverages, forecasting of Meteorological Information regularly at an interval of six hours, provision of special counters to disseminate flight information, provision of additional chairs in all the terminals, prompt display of flight delays, positioning of additional personal for toilet clearing, deployment of additional man power to look after congestion and customs Immigration X-ray machines and security. Besides, Airport Directors of Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Bhubaneshwar and Vadodara have been advised to gear up existing facilities like parking bays, safety services and increased watch hours for air traffic services to handle diverted air traffic from Delhi airport.

Suspension of operation of Mumbai airport at night

2902. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from residents of Mumbai that Mumbai airport operation should be suspended between 10.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m. as it is a violation of the guidelines on the subject; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Some local people staying in Sahar villages close to Terminal II (International) have demanded through Police Authorities that night opearation between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. should be suspended as they create noise pollution.